





E FACT THAT HE KNEW HIS WERE RUNNING OUT, COUPLED



GAINST A CITY ORDINANCE WHICH POHIBITED CARRYING GUNS, 50 FIRST BLOOD AND RYAN WAS CUT UP FRIGHTFULLY

SUNSLINGER HAD TOO MANY FRIENDS ANXIOUS TO EVEN THE SCORE FROM AMBUSH

ENT WAS AN EXPERT AT THE SIX-GUN HAD TO LEAVE DALLAS FAST AS

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## TENDERFOOT TREASURE

A Gabby Hayes Tall Tale



NE MORNING, some of the boys who had been out rounding up strays happened to stop by at Sourdough Jake's cabin up on Buzzard's Creek. And there was old Sourdough lying on his bunk plumb dead, but no sign of foul play. He was one hundred and seven years old and nobody ever did find out rightly what he died of.

Now there's no need for any of you to get out your bandanss and take to weeping because Old Jake wouldn't have wanted anybody to be bellering and carrying on about him. He was a great one for fun and hagkiret and playing jokes on people. In fact, he played a big joke on the whole town of Rawhide even after he was dead. That's what I sim to tell you about. Seems like Take had written out a note that

Seems like Jake had written out a note that was a cross between a will and a clue to a secret treasure. He painted that note in big letters all across one wall of his shack. I can remember what it said as plain as the whiskers on my chin.

To Everybody That's Interested:

I have hid my nest egg where you birds will never find it if you dig till you come to China. But since I haven't got any kintolk, I hereby will my gold to whoever does find it. Reckon a lot of you lazy varmints will work up a big sweat for nothing, but it won't do you a lick of harm, my fine. feathered friends.

He signed it, and then he added a PS: There's plenty of clues in the above, but I reckon none of you bird brains will be able to figure them out.

Well, of course, practically everybody in awhide and surrounding parts started treasure huming up on Buzzard's Creek. They dug enough holes all around Jake's cabin to house every gopher that ever lived. They tore up the planks in Jake's floor and pulled the bricks out of his fireplace. And my friend, Bodkins, nearly got himself drowned when he got a notion

This was mighty discouraging, for it was generally known that the old prospector had made some good strikes in his time and they generally an experiment of the source of

Most a year had gone by when one of these here dudes — a feller that answered to the handle of Chauncey Verbhitton — came out from the east to put up at the Bra Nothing Ranch for a time. Now I, personally, down much handler of have these here, tenderforts boarding at the reach house. I've got nothing agird them personally, but a greenbors on a ranch la always getting in the way or getting the state of the control of the co

But Aunt Hester loves to have them fancytalking fellers hanging around and she can gab with them by the bour. She says they add a note of culture to the raw frontier. So that's why we had to put up with Chauncey Vest-

I will describe him. He was a thin, pale fellow with a long nose and high cheek bones. He had on one of those eastern hats that looks like a soup bowl turned upside down and the rest of his clothes were about as silly.

a soup bowl turned upside down and the rest of his clothes were about as silly. Work was slack both on the ranches and in Rawhide, so the loafers had plenty of time to think up ways to haze poor old Chauncey. One bunch promised to teach him how to shoot snipes. They made him stand with his back to the horse trough and showed him how to a double-barrelled shotgun with a triple load of powder into it. Then somebody hollered, "There's a snipe, Chauncey! Pull the trigger, quick!"

BOOM! Old Channe pulled the trigger, all right, and that gun kicked him backwards into the horse trough and soaked him with water from top-knot to toe nail. The loafers all laughed like blame fools. Chauncey crawled out, bruised and dripping, and said solemnly. "I guess I'll have to have a bit more practise with that gun."

Then the loafers howled some more, and thought up further devilment. They went through all the usual mean things like getting him thrown off a bucking horse and handing him the wrong end of a branding iron. They even got a 'wild' Indian to threaten to scalp him.

Now the reason I didn't put a stop to the hazing was I thought Chauncey was one of these rich whipper-mappers who needed some pummbling around for the good of his soul. You could've knocked me over with a feether when he came to me one day and in that polite voice of his said, "Mr. Hayes, I would like to have a job."

I told him I thought he was joking. Why would a rich man like him want a job? And he said he want rich at all, that he had worked as a clerk back east and had used up all his life's eavings to come west for his health. He said he didn't have much experience on a reach, but he knew he could get the hang of it in due time.

Shucks, I felt real sorry for him. He awas the sort of chap who wouldn't ever make a cowboy if he worked at it for a thousand years. But he was so earnest and serious I just couldn't turn him down fifs, so I said, "This is kind of sudden and you better give me a couple of days to think it over." He thanked me and tipped his soup bowl hat. My, but he looked offitial.

Some of the boys hollered for him to come on with them as they were going on a big expedition and they had a big surprise all ready for him. They rode away and I began putting my brain to Chauncey's problem. Every way I looked it seemed like there was no solution except for him to go back east and start clerking seain.

But those loafers didn't have any pity. The scheme they had thought up was to take Chauncey out to Sourdough Jake's old cabin and show him that message on the wall. Then they'd hand Chaunce a pick and showel and watch him dig till he dropped.

which him of gittle de depoled. They had been depleted up in frome of the clade. They had just referred to fine their if Lady Mush, the herra Channery was riding, and many the demonstration in her for one new buck. He day his spur limb her and the roll arms was a stacked as his just limb her and the roll arms was a stacked as his just limb her and the day had been and clade there. The pieces were all laughing so hard they didn't hear what Channery was surjing as first. When they did here, they all supplied passing and some started crypts, and the surjing and some started crypts, and the surjing and some started crypts.

A heap of gold! Hid in the crotch of this tree!"

Chauncey Vestbutton, the greenhorn, tenderfoot dude from the east, had found Jake's
cache that all the smart hombres had overlooked!

A ND you know, when you come to look be at it, Old Jake had put in plenty of clues to tell that the treasure was up a tree. Like he called it "inest egg" and said "you birds" and "fone-feathered friends." He even said, "You'll never find it if you dig." I reckn I was the only one smart enough to figure out them clues, but of course, I didn't need the money.

THE END

Laugh at the GABBY HAYES TALL TALES in GABBY HAYES WESTERN















































IN THE SHOULDER AND VIRGIL IN THE LEC - NEITHER VIRTY SERVOLLY DOC HOLLIDAY WENT ON TO CLEAN UP THE REST OF THE TOMBSTONE OUTLAWS WITH THE BARPS AND LATER DIED IN COLORADD FROM THE CONSUMPTION WHICH HAD MADE HIM ONE OF THE SOUTHWEST'S MOST FEAR IESS GURGLINGES GURGLINGES

Gabby Hayes

